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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LIN, KENNY S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/729,167

Applicant(s)

MIYAZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Kenny Lin

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-11 are presented for examination.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it fails to fall within the range of 50 to 150 word and the fonts cause the words to merge too close together to make the specification hard to read. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- a. The following terms lack proper antecedence basis:

- i. Claim 1, line 9, a transmission/receiving part, (is it the same transmission/receiving part of the server, or is it a transmission/receiving part dedicated only for the client?)
- ii. Claim 1, line 10, an icon creation part (is it the same icon creation part of the server, or is it a part dedicated only for the client?)
- iii. Claim 1, line 10, a transmission icon (is the server and the client sending the same icon or are they different transmission icons?)
- iv. Claim 1, line 11, a screen creation part (is it the same screen creation part of the server, or is it a screen creation part dedicated only for the client?)
- v. Claim 1, line 14, a message board screen (is it a different message board screen from the one server created?)
- vi. Claim 1, lines 12 and 13, an icon (are they the same icon? Please specify)
- vii. Claim 1, line 16, its message board screen (please specify whether it's the screen of the client or server)
- viii. Claim 1, line 18, its message board screen (please specify whether it's the screen of the client or server)
- ix. Claim 1, lines 16, 17 and 18, said icon, the icon (do you mean "said new icon"?)
- x. Claims 2-3, said message board (which message board are you referring to?)
- xi. Claim 2, lines 5 and 6, a message (i.e. "said message")
- xii. Claim 2, line 8, the icon (which one is this icon referring to?)

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- xiii. Claim 3, lines 2, 5 and 7, a message (i.e. "said message")
- xiv. Claim 3, line 4, a new message (i.e. "said new message")
- xv. Claim 4, line 2, an icon (is this a different icon from all other icons introduced in previous claims?)
- xvi. Claim 4, lines 5-6, the message with this ID number (do you mean "the message with the same ID number?")
- xvii. Claim 4, line 6, a new message (please specify this message to distinguish with other messages introduced in the previous claims)
- xviii. Claim 4, lines 7 and 12, a message with the same ID number (i.e. "said message with the same ID number")
- xix. Claim 4, lines 8 and 10, its message board (please specify whether it's the screen of the client or server)
- xx. Claim 4, lines 9 and 15, the message with this ID number (do you mean "the message with the same ID number?")
- xxi. Claim 4, lines 13-14, the self message board (i.e. a self message board?
Please specify which message board is this one referring to)
- xxii. Claim 6, line 3, server comprise (change to "server comprises")
- xxiii. Claim 6, line 8, a transmission/receiving part, (is it the same transmission/receiving part of the server, or is it a transmission/receiving part dedicated only for the client?)
- xxiv. Claim 6, line 9, an icon creation part (is it the same icon creation part of the server, or is it a part dedicated only for the client?)

- xxv. Claim 6, line 9, a transmission icon (is the server and the client sending the same icon or are they different transmission icons?)
- xxvi. Claim 6, line 10, a screen creation part (is it the same screen creation part of the server, or is it a screen creation part dedicated only for the client?)
- xxvii. Claim 6, line 13, a message board screen (is it a different message board screen from the one server created?)
- xxviii. Claim 6, lines 11 and 12, an icon (are they the same icon? Please specify)
- xxix. Claim 6, line 15, its message board screen (please specify whether it's the screen of the client or server)
- xxx. Claim 6, line 17, its message board screen (please specify whether it's the screen of the client or server)
- xxxi. Claim 6, lines 15, 17, 18 and 19, said icon, the icon (do you mean "said new icon"?)
- xxxii. Claim 7, line 3, said icon (do you mean "said new icon"?)
- xxxiii. Claim 8, line 5, a step the (change to "a step of the")
- xxxiv. Claim 8, line 11, the ID number (ID number was not introduce prior to this point in this claim)
- xxxv. Claim 8, line 13, the message board (message board was not introduce prior to this point in this claim)
- xxxvi. Claim 8, line 14, this ID number (do you mean "said ID number")
- xxxvii. Claim 8, line 15, the ID number the same as (change to "the ID number is the same as")

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- xxxviii. Claim 8, lines 16, 20 and 21, its message board screen (please specify whether it's the screen of the client or server)
- xxxix. Claim 8, lines 17 and 21, a message (do you mean "said message")
 - xl. Claim 8, line 18, a new message (do you mean "said new message")
 - xli. Claim 8, line 23, the message (which message does this one refer to?)
 - xlii. Claim 9, lines 8, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 21, said message board (i.e. "said self message board")
 - xlili. Claim 9, line 11, a message of said message board (i.e. "said message of said self message board")
 - xliv. Claim 9, lines 15 and 21, a message (i.e. "said message")
 - xlvi. Claim 9, line 18, a new message (i.e. "said new message")
 - xlvi. Claim 9, line 23, the request (i.e., "a request")
 - xlvi. Claim 10, line 12, the ID number (ID number was not introduce prior to this point in this claim)
 - xlvi. Claim 10, line 14, the message board (message board was not introduce prior to this point in this claim)
 - xlvi. Claim 10, lines 15, a message (do you mean "said message")
 - l. Claim 10, lines 17, 21, 22 and 24, its message board screen (please specify whether it's the screen of the client or server)
 - li. Claim 10, lines 18 and 22, a message (do you mean "said message")
 - lii. Claim 10, line 19, a new message (do you mean "said new message")
 - liii. Claim 10, line 24, the message (which message does this one refer to?)

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liv. Claim 11, lines 8, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 21, said message board (i.e. "said self message board")

lv. Claim 11, lines 12 and 16, a message (i.e. "said message")

lvi. Claim 11, line 19, a new message (i.e. "said new message")

lvii. Claim 11, line 25, the request (i.e., "a request")

6. This listing of 112, 2nd problems is meant to be exemplary not exhaustive. Applicant should carefully review all of his current claims and any new claims for additional 112, 2nd problem.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

8. Claims 1, 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Iwasa et al (hereinafter Iwasa), EP 0959592.

9. Iwasa was cited by the applicant in IDS paper number 3.

10. As per claim 1, Iwasa taught the invention as claimed including a client server system comprising a server and a plurality of clients connected to said server via communication lines,

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- a. Wherein said server comprises a transmission/receiving part (col.2, lines 48-51, 55-58, col.3, lines 1-2, col.4, lines 2-6), an icon transfer part for transferring an icon received by said transmission/receiving part to another client (col.4, lines 37-48), and a screen creation part for receiving an icon from said transmission/receiving part and creating a message board screen (col.4, lines 45-48),
- b. Wherein said client comprises a transmission/receiving part (col.2, lines 48-55), an icon creation part for sending a transmission icon to said transmission/receiving part (col.4, lines 21-36), and a screen creation part for receiving an icon received by said transmission/receiving part and/or an icon created by said icon creation part and creating a message board screen (col.4, lines 21-36, 37-48), and
- c. Wherein, when a new icon is created, said client displays the new icon on its message board screen and sends said icon to said server (col.4, lines 45-49, col.5, lines 14-29, 39-47), and said server receives said icon, displays the icon on its message board screen, and transfers said icon to another client (col.5, lines 39-47, col.6, lines 30-58, col.7, lines 1-5).

11. As per claim 6, Iwasa taught the invention substantially as claimed including a client server system comprising a server and a plurality of clients connected to said sever via communication lines (fig.2), wherein said server comprises a transmission/receiving part (col.2, lines 48-51, 55-58, col.3, lines 1-2, col.4, lines 2-6), an icon transfer part which transfers an icon

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received by said transmission/receiving part to another client (col.4, lines 37-48), and a screen creation part which receives an icon from said transmission/receiving part and creates a message board screen (col.4, lines 21-36, 37-48),

- a. Wherein said client comprises a transmission/receiving part (col.2, lines 48-55), an icon creation part which sends a transmission icon to said transmission/receiving part (col.4, lines 21-36), and a screen creation part which receives an icon received by said transmission/receiving part and/or an icon created by said icon creation part and creates a message board screen (col.4, lines 21-36, 37-48), and
- b. Wherein, when a new icon is created, said client displays the new icon on its message board screen and sends said icon to said server (col.4, lines 45-49, col.5, lines 14-29, 39-47),
- c. Said server receives said icon, displays it on its message board screen and transfers said icon to another client (col.5, lines 39-47, col.6, lines 30-58, col.7, lines 1-5), and
- d. Said icon indicates the positional relationship of the message board and the message and/or the positional relationship between the messages (col.4, lines 32-36, col.5, lines 39-47, col.6, lines 30-58, col.7, lines 1-5).

12. As per claim 7, Iwasa taught the invention as claimed in claim 1. Iwasa further taught wherein said client is a portable information terminal comprising a flat panel display, said icon is

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represented by one or more dots on said flat panel display (fig.1, col.1, lines 21-33, 43-54, col.4, lines 22-36).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nitta et al (hereinafter Nitta), US 6,154,764, in view of "Official Notice".

15. As per claims 8 and 10, Nitta taught the invention substantially as claimed including a data transmission method/program for a client server system comprising a server and a plurality of clients connected to said server via communication lines (col.4, lines 14-21, fig.1), said data transmission method comprising:

- a. A step of the client inquiring a generation number to indicate a message status to the server (col.7, lines 57-65);
- b. A step of the client comparing the generation number at this time with the generation number at a previous time (col.7, lines 1-8, 37-43);
- c. A step of the client requesting the server to transmit a message (col.1, lines 53-56, 62-67, col.4, lines 32-40, col.7, lines 23-24);

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- d. A step of the client judging whether the ID number included in the received message matches the ID number of the message already existing on the message board (col.2, lines 59-61, 64-67, col.3, line 1, col.8, lines 65-67, col.9, lines 1-3);
 - e. A step of registering the message with this ID number as a new message when the message with the ID number is the same as that received from the server does not exist on its message board (col.5, lines 23-26, 61-67, col.6, lines 4-22, 35-44, 52-55, col.7, lines 51-53, 57-65).
16. Nitta taught to determine whether the ID number of the message is of an existing message on the message board (col.2, lines 59-61, 64-67, col.3, line 1, col.8, lines 65-67, col.9, lines 1-3). Nitta further taught to remove deleted messages but keep the message IDs (col.2, lines 51-53, col.5, lines 23-26, col.6, lines 46-51, col.8, lines 18-22). Nitta did not specifically teach a step of correcting a message by replacing an existing message with a new message received from the server; and a step of deleting an existing message on the message board using a pseudo-message. However, "Official Notice" is taken that both the advantage and concept of replacing/overwriting contents of a message is well known and expected in the art. Furthermore, "Official Notice is taken that it would have been obvious to overwrite a message with a message with no content in order to erase/delete the existing message. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Nitta and the teaching of replacing message in order to update the contents of the messages including replacing the message with a message of no content when it is determined that the message ID of

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the received message already exists on the message board and keeping the message ID (Nitta, col.2, lines 51-53, col.5, lines 23-26, col.6, lines 46-51, col.8, lines 18-22).

17. As per claim 9 and 11, Nitta taught the invention substantially as claimed including a data transmission method/program for client server system comprising a server and a plurality of clients connected to said server via communication lines (col.4, lines 14-21, fig.1), said data transmission method comprising:

- a. A step of the server preparing a self message board to post a message from said client (col.1, lines 7-10, col.4, lines 32-40);
- b. A step of the server preparing a generation number to indicate a message status on said message board as an attribute thereof (col.7, lines 1-8, 57-65);
- c. A step of the server preparing an ID number corresponding to a message of said message board (col.5, lines 23-26, 61-67, col.6, lines 35-44, col.7, lines col.7, lines 1-8, 51-53, 57-65);
- d. A step of the server initializing said generation number (col.7, lines 1-8, 14-24, 37-43, 57-65);
- e. A step of the server updating said generation number at least when a new message is posted on said message board, when a message on said message board is corrected or when a message on said message board is deleted (col.7, lines 1-8, 14-24, 37-43, 57-65);

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- f. A step of the server setting the updated generation number as said ID number when a new message is posted on said message board (col.7, lines 14-24, 37-43, 57-65);
- g. A step of the server sending the message to said client according to the request from the client (col.1, lines 53-56, 62-67, col.4, lines 32-40, col.7, lines 23-24).

18. Nitta further taught to keep the message IDs of the deleted messages in order to use the message ID to determine whether the message is deleted or not (col.2, lines 51-53, col.5, lines 23-26, col.6, lines 46-51, col.7, lines 31-36, 51-53, 57-65). Nitta further taught to remove deleted messages but keep the message IDs (col.2, lines 51-53, col.5, lines 23-26, col.6, lines 46-51, col.8, lines 18-22). Nitta did not specifically teach a step of the server overwriting the content of said message with a pseudo-message to delete an existing message. However, "Official Notice" is taken that both the advantage and concept of overwriting contents of a message is well known and expected in the art. Furthermore, "Official Notice is taken that it would have been obvious to overwrite a message with a message with no content in order to erase/delete the existing message. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Nitta and the teaching of replacing message in order to update the contents of the messages including replacing the message with a message of no content when it is determined that the message ID of the received message already exists on the message board and keeping the message ID (Nitta, col.2, lines 51-53, col.5, lines 23-26, col.6, lines 46-51, col.8, lines 18-22).

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19. Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasa in view of Nitta et al (hereinafter Nitta), US 6,154,764, and "Official Notice".

20. As per claim 2, Iwasa taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1. Iwasa did not specifically teach wherein said message board includes a generation number to indicate a message status as an attribute thereof, said generation number is updated at least when a new message is posted on said message board, when a message on said message board is corrected, or when a message on said message board is deleted, and said client receives said generation number from the server, and requests said icon transfer part of said server to transfer the icon when the generation number received at this time is different from the generation number received at a previous time. Nitta taught to include a generation number to indicate a message status as an attribute thereof (col.7, lines 1-8, 57-65, date and time indicating status), said generation number is updated at least when a new message is posted on said message board, when a message on said message board is corrected, or when a message on said message board is deleted (col.7, lines 14-24, 37-43), and said client receives said generation number from the server (col.7, lines 23-43). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Iwasa and Nitta because Nitta's teaching of using message status in indicating that the message is unread, read, deleted... etc and constantly updating the status of the message help the users of Iwasa's system to clearly view the status of the message and determine whether the message was accessed or not. Nitta further taught to update generation numbers from time to time (col.7, lines 14-24, 37-43). Iwasa and Nitta did not specifically teach to request said icon transfer part of said server to transfer the icon

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when the generation number received at this time is different from the generation number received at a previous time. However, "Official Notice" is taken that it would have been obvious to transfer a new icon in replacing the old one when the status of the message is updated. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Iwasa, Nitta and further transfer new icons to indicate the new updated status of the message when it is determined that the generation number, associated with the status of the message, is updated.

21. As per claim 3, Iwasa and Nitta taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 2. Nitta taught to post messages including ID numbers as an attribute thereof and update generation number is set as said ID number when a new message is posted on said message board (col.5, lines 23-26, 61-67, col.6, lines 35-44, col.7, lines 1-8, 51-53, 57-65, posting messages includes posting corrected messages) and keep the message IDs of the deleted messages in order to use the message ID to determine whether the message is deleted or not (col.2, lines 51-53, col.5, lines 23-26, col.6, lines 46-51, col.7, lines 31-36, 51-53, 57-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Iwasa and Nitta because Nitta's teaching of keeping message IDs in tracing messages help Iwasa's system to easily locate and search the desired messages using the saved message IDs of the deleted messages (col.2, lines 24-31, col.10, lines 36-41). Nitta further taught to remove deleted messages (col.8, lines 18-22). Iwasa and Nitta did not specifically teach that the message is updated when the message is corrected and the message is overwritten with a pseudo-message when a message is deleted. However, "Official Notice" is taken that both the

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advantage and concept of overwriting contents of a message is well known and expected in the art. Furthermore, "Official Notice is taken that it would have been obvious to overwrite a message with a message with no content in order to erase/delete the existing message. It would have been obvious that deleting/removing a message from its message board is an alternative method which derives same result as overwriting a message with a pseudo-message. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Iwasa Nitta and the teaching of replacing message in order to update the contents of the messages including replacing the message with a message of no content. It would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Iwasa, Nitta and the teaching of removing message as an alternative method in deleting the message from the message board than replacing the message with a message of no content.

22. As per claim 4, Iwasa and Nitta taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 3. Iwasa further taught the client to receive an icon from said icon transfer part of said server (col.4, lines 45-49, col.5, lines 14-29, 39-47, col.6, lines 30-58, col.7, lines 1-5). Nitta further taught to register message with ID number as a new message when the ID number of the message is not on its message board (col.5, lines 23-26, 61-67, col.6, lines 4-22, 35-44, 52-55, col.7, lines 51-53, 57-65). Nitta taught to determine whether the ID number of the message is of an existing message on the message board (col.2, lines 59-61, 64-67, col.3, line 1, col.8, lines 65-67, col.9, lines 1-3). Nitta further taught to remove deleted messages but keep the message IDs (col.2, lines 51-53, col.5, lines 23-26, col.6, lines 46-51, col.8, lines 18-22). Iwasa and Nitta did not

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specifically teach to replace the message with a new message received from the server or delete the message when a pseudo-message is received. However, "Official Notice" is taken that both the advantage and concept of overwriting contents of a message is well known and expected in the art. Furthermore, "Official Notice" is taken that it would have been obvious to overwrite a message with a message with no content in order to erase/delete the existing message. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Iwasa, Nitta and the teaching of replacing message in order to update the contents of the messages including replacing the message with a message of no content but keeping the message ID (Nitta, col.2, lines 51-53, col.5, lines 23-26, col.6, lines 46-51, col.8, lines 18-22).

23. As per claim 5, Iwasa and Nitta taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 2. Nitta further taught to update generation number (col.7, lines 37-43). Iwasa and Nitta did not specifically teach wherein said client requests said server to notify said generation number at a predetermined time interval. However, "Official Notice" is taken that the concept and the advantage of periodically notifying a receiver is well known and expected in the art in order to update or inform the receiver from time to time. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Iwasa, Nitta and the teachings of periodically notifying to inform the client of Iwasa and Nitta's system the update generation numbers periodically.

Conclusion

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24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kennedy, US 6,134,582.

Klassen, US 6,216,121.

Cragun, US 6,557,027.

Flanagan et al, US 6,292,769.

Miksovsky et al, US 6,526,529.

Gage et al, US 5,923,846.

Maurille, US 6,484,196.

Teibel et al, US 6,363,427.

Aldred et al, US 6,654,805.

Knight et al, US 6,493,703.

Kikugawa, US 6,438,632.

Barchi, US 6,507,866.

Murray, US 6,243,104.

25. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenny Lin whose telephone number is (703)305-0438. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM Tuesday to Friday and every other Monday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (703)305-8498. Additionally, the fax numbers for Group 2100 are as follows:

Official Responses: (703) 872-9306

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-6121.

ksl
July 7, 2004


ZARNI MAUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER